

b.) Remarks

Claim 18 has been amended in order to recite the present invention with the specificity required by statute. No new matter has been added.

Claim 18 has been objected to due to one informality. In response, that claim has been amended in conformity with the Examiner's kind suggestion.

The sole remaining issue, therefore, is the rejection of claim 52 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. In response, in order to expedite prosecution, that claim has been cancelled.

Regarding a final formal matter, the Examiner considered none of the references cited in Applicants' May 24, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement. The bases for this are unclear -- none was discussed in the Office Action. That is, none of the references listed in the May 24, 2004 PTO-1449 was initialed, and three sequences were crossed out. No reason was provided, although the form returned to Applicants did say "date?" next to the three sequence citations.

Applicants previously explained that all the references were cited in their corresponding foreign application and provided the Examiner with a copy of the appropriate Supplemental European Search Report. Of course, that Search Report gives the dates of the sequence citations.

Nonetheless, to reduce the issues, Applicants are providing the Examiner herewith another copy of their previous form PTO-1449 bearing the appropriate dates. Now that this formality has been attended to, confirmation that all four references are

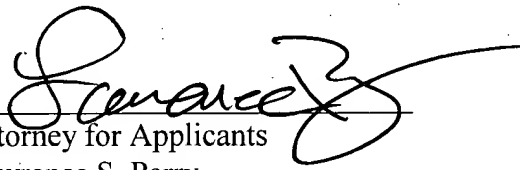
considered and will be printed on the face of any patent issuing herein is respectfully requested in the next Patent Office communication.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all of the Examiner's concerns are now overcome and the claims are now in allowable condition. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2, 5-25, 29-31, 33, 38, 48, 49, 53 and 54 remain presented for continued prosecution.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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